

White-faced heron *Ardea novaehollandiae* 67 cm

NEW ZEALAND NATIVE, NOT THREATENED

Sometimes called the blue heron, the white-faced heron is a slender blue-grey bird with white around the face. It has a sharp black bill and long yellow legs. White-faced herons are generalist feeders, and thrive in many habitats including rocky shores, lake margins, damp pasture, and swamps. They have benefited from the widespread conversion of forest to farmland throughout New Zealand, and colonised the Chatham Islands from mainland New Zealand in the early 1970s. They breed in pairs or loose groups, building large untidy nests high up in macrocarpas or similar trees, or, in the Chatham Islands, on cliff ledges or in sea caves. They have been recorded breeding on Chatham Island, Rangatira, and Mangere.



White-faced heron.
Photo: Peter Reese.

